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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****FEB 04 2008****REMARKS**

The Office Action dated November 5, 2007 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 4, 5 and 10-12 have been amended. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are the only independent claims. The Specification has been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to because "the unlabeled rectangular boxes shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels." In response, replacement sheets have been provided for Figs. 1 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of the objection.

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-12 under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form. Applicant has amended claims 4, 5 and 10-12 to address this objection. With these amendments, Applicant believes that the reason for the Examiner's objection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests the objections be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5, 10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Coorman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,665,641 (Hereinafter "Coorman"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

The present invention relates synthesizing a speech signal by appending speech segments. In particular, claim 1 recites:

1. A method of synthesizing of a speech signal, the speech signal having at least a first speech unit and a second speech unit, the method comprising the steps of:
  - providing a first speech unit signal, the first speech unit signal having an end interval,
  - providing a second speech unit signal, the second speech unit signal having a front interval,
  - appending of at least some of the periods of the end interval in inverted order at the end of the first speech unit signal to provide a fade-out interval,
  - appending of at least some of the periods of the front interval in inverted order at the beginning of the second speech unit signal to provide a fade-in interval,
  - superposing of the end and fade-in intervals and of the fade-out and front intervals.

As recited above, and as described in detail in Fig. 2 and in the accompanying paragraph [0027] of the application as published, a fade-out interval 204 is provided by appending at least some of the periods of the end interval 202 in inverted order at the end of the speech signal unit (diphone signal A, in the example described in paragraph [0027]). Similarly, a fade-in interval 210 is provided by appending at least some of the periods of the front interval 208 in inverted order at the beginning of the speech signal unit (diphone signal B, in the example described in paragraph [0027]).

Coorman et al. teaches speech synthesis using concatenation of speech waveforms. However, Coorman fails to teach (or even suggest) the features described above with

respect to the providing of a fade-in (and fade-out) interval by appending respective periods of the signal in an inverse order.

Page 4 of the Office Action points to Col. 18, lines 56-64 as teaching these features of claim 1. However, this passage merely discusses "the well-known weighted overlap-and-add (OLA)" method of concatenating two segments and Coorman's improvement whereby "[t]o get high-quality concatenation, we locate a region in the trailing part of the first segment and we locate a region in the leading part of the second segment, such that a phase mismatch measure between the two regions is minimized." Nowhere in this cited paragraph (nor in the entire Coorman reference) is the claimed fade-out (or fade-in) interval provided by appending periods of the signal interval in an inverted order.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element recited therein is expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. Coorman cannot be said to anticipate the present invention, because Coorman fails to disclose each and every element recited. As shown, Coorman fails to disclose the limitation providing a fade-out (or fade-in) interval by appending periods of the signal interval in an inverted order. Claims 13 and 14 recite similar features and are deemed patentable for the same reasons.

Having shown that Coorman fails to disclose each and every element claimed, Applicant submits that claims 1, 13 and 14 are allowable over Coorman. Applicant

respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1, 13 and 14.

With regard to claims 2-12, these claims ultimately depend from claim 1, which have been shown to be not anticipated and allowable in view of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 1-12 also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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